

Rich's Styrofoam Shelter

One of our local TNR advocates, Rich Burns, has created an easy-to-construct shelter from a Styrofoam shipping container. Thanks to Rich for sharing his idea!

Materials

Cost (not including cooler): less than \$6 per shelter!

Note: materials shown include for adding a platform to a 15" x 15" x 40" styrofoam cooler.

Material dimensions need to be adjusted for different sized coolers

- Plastic wash tub (Walmart): cut in half to make awnings for 2 shelters.
- Landscape timbers (Home Depot): 2 pcs, 16" long, for each shelter. Cut from 8' pieces (Home Depot)
- Platform top: 1/4" project paneling (Lowes), 1 pc, 12" X 32" per shelter. Cut from 4' x 8' sheet. Screw to landscape timbers with six 1" long screws
- Vinyl lattice strips (Home Depot), 1/4" x 1 1/2": 2 pcs, 11" long to secure cooler to platform, using six, 2 1/2" long screws
- Vinyl lattice pieces (Home Depot), 1/4" x 1 1/2": 3 pcs, 1" long to secure awning to cooler with three, 1 1/2" screws
- Straw: (not shown) (Agway and numerous feed stores), to line shelter
- Duct tape: to secure lid to shelter

Tools: Saw, cordless screwdriver, shears, sharpie, tape measure, steak knife (to cut circular hole in cooler)



Styrofoam cooler, 15" X 15" X 40" long (sizes may vary) with 6" hole added. For leads on where to obtain coolers locally, contact Rich Burns: slipkid@aol.com.



With optional awning attached. Cut Walmart dollar-tub in half and fasten with 1 1/2-inch screws into vinyl lattice pieces.

Recommended platform for shelter, which raises shelter from ground, and keeps it from blowing away. Cheap landscape timbers and thin paneling to distribute weight. Dimensions shown in photo: Landscape timbers, 16 inches long, plywood panel, 12 inches wide by 32 inches long. Using container as noted, timbers should be separated 21.5 inches. Paint paneling and screw to timbers.



Screw cooler to platform using 11" long vinyl lattice strips with three 2 1/2-inch screws per strip.



Duct-tape cooler lid on one side as shown, fill with straw, and it's ready to go!



You can spray paint the shelter to camouflage it as needed.